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PCORI Releases Draft National Priorities for Research

Today, the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) issued their first draft National Priorities for Research and Research Agenda for public comment. The priorities and agenda are intended to provide a framework and identify the “broad questions that must be addressed so that patients can make better and more personalized decisions in partnership with their clinicians across all areas of health.”

As we mentioned in last Friday’s News Summary, over the last year, members of PCORI’s Board of Governors have conducted meetings with stakeholders across the country in order to inform the direction its research should go. As you’ll recall, Congress established PCORI through the Affordable Care Act, with a budget of \$3 billion over 10 years to support comparative effectiveness research. PCORI’s role is advisory rather than mandatory, and, if successful, its research will offer information to healthcare providers and to patients that will lead to better health outcomes and lower healthcare costs.

According to a statement released by PCORI’s Executive Director, the draft research agenda is “not prescriptive about which conditions or treatments to study. It is a starting point. We hope that patients and other stakeholders will join with us in the coming months as we apply this framework to identify the specific questions that are most important for PCORI to address.”

The public comment period will remain open until March 15, after which PCORI will publish a report that summarizes the input with an explanation of how it led to changes in the draft priorities and agenda. PCORI is also holding additional forums to obtain and incorporate public feedback, including focus groups, involving patients, caregivers and clinicians, as well as a national dialogue session on February 27 in Washington, D.C. The dialogue is open to the public and will be accessible through a webcast and teleconference to allow individuals to participate remotely. For more information and to register to attend, please click [here](#). For more information on how to provide input, please click [here](#).

To view the full draft of the National Priorities for Research and Research Agenda, please click [here](#).

IOM Releases New Report on Crisis Standards of Care

Also this morning, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) released a new report summarizing the presentations and commentary from the 17th World Congress on Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WCDEM), held in May and June of 2011 in Beijing, China. The report, “Barriers to Integrating Crisis Standards of Care Principles into International Disaster Response Plans: Workshop Summary,” was drawn from discussions regarding opportunities and challenges to integrate crisis standards of care principles into international disaster response plans, using the IOM’s Crisis Standards of Care as a means to foster discussion among the international stakeholders in attendance.

According to the report, “When a nation or region prepares for public health emergencies such as a pandemic influenza, a large-scale earthquake, or any major disaster scenario in which the health system may be destroyed or stressed to its limits, it is important to describe how standards of care would change due to shortages of critical resources. Such ‘crisis standards of care’ are the level of health and medical care capable of being delivered during a catastrophic event (whether naturally occurring or manmade). To ensure that fair and equitable care is provided to patients in a catastrophic event, nations and regions need a robust system to guide the public, healthcare professionals and institutions, and governmental entities at all levels.”

The report concludes that for large disasters, global standards should be established for mass casualty and fatality management, but notes that “there will be no global solution, however, before there are local solutions.” Attendees of the workshop expressed that the hope that a broader dialog would be initiated to stimulate additional efforts and Crisis Standards of Care concept development within the individual nation and larger international community.

To view a summary of the report, please click [here](#).

This Special Alert is an update from The Roundtable on Critical Care Policy. For further information on the Roundtable, please visit our website at www.CriticalCareRoundtable.org.